

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 SAM-01 OIC-02 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

AEC-05 AID-05 /097 W

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P R 241120Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8227

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, VS

SUBJ: LEFTISTS PRESSURING GOF TO ELEVATE PRG STATUS.

REF: HELSINKI 2491, 0133.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST RADIO AND NEWSPAPER COMMENTATOR JOHAN VON BONSDORFF EXEMPLIFIES LEFTIST PRESSURE TACTICS ON GOF FOR ELEVATION STATUS PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI AND CHANGE IN GOF POLICY OF ABSTAINING ON QUESTIONS OF PRG PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. ARTICLE APPEARED IN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER KANSAN UUTISSET JANUARY 22.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TAKE UP MATTER WITH FINNISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO REINFORCE MESSAGE WE HAVE BEEN
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DELIVERING HERE ON PRG ISSUE. EMBASSY PLANS DISCUSS

QUESTION WITH TUOVINEN JANUARY 27.

END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

3. QTE FINLAND AND THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. IN ABOUT A WEEK, TWO YEARS WILL HAVE PASSED SINCE THE VIETNAM ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN PARIS. FINLAND HAS ADOPTED A POSITIVE STAND TOWARD THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, BUT HAS NOT YET TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS WAS TAKEN UP BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY (SKP) RECENTLY IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

4. THE QUESTION OF RAISING THE STATUS OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN HELSINKI TO A DIPLOMATIC LEVEL HAS BEEN ON THE AGENDA OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE LAST SUMMER, BUT STILL AWAITS A DECISION.

5. THE COUNCIL OF STATE WILL, HOWEVER, PROBABLY DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, DEAL WITH A QUESTION WHICH PERHAPS WILL INDICATE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE LEADERS OF FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY WANT DEVELOPMENTS TO PROCEED. THIS MATTER IS THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH CONVENES IN GENEVA IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO DEAL WITH THE RIGHTS OF POWS, HUMANIZATION OF WARFARE, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF VARIOUS WEAPONS. IT IS THE QUESTION OF A CONTINUING MEETING. FINLAND ABSTAINED LAST YEAR WHEN A VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRG.

6. THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CONVENED BY THE SWISS GOVERNMENT AND IS SUPPORTED BY THE UN. THE INVITATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE APPROVED THE SO-CALLED GENEVA AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED

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MATTERS. THE PRG ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER 1973 THAT IT WILL SIGN THE AGREEMENTS. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT BECAME EFFECTIVE IN DECEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR, I.E., BEFORE THE START OF THE CONFERENCE. DESPITE THIS THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS EITHER NOT DARED BECAUSE OF PRESSURE BY THE USA, OR HAS NOT WANTED TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO THE PRG, INSTEAD SUBMITTING THE MATTER TO THE CONFERENCE FOR DECISION. IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT THE SAIGON JUNTA HAS RECEIVED

AN INVITATION.

7. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED THEN - BECAUSE OF STRONG PRESSURE BY THE US - BY A MAJORITY OF ONE VOTE NOT TO PRESENT AN INVITATION TO THE PRG. FINLAND'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD THUS HAVE WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE SCALES.

8. THE MATTER WILL COME UP AGAIN THIS YEAR WHEN THE CONFERENCE IS RESUMED AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY. THE GOF NATURALLY HAS TO TAKE A POSITION BEFORE THAT AND ONE MUST THUS PRESUPPOSE THAT FINLAND'S STAND WILL CHANGE TO A POSITIVE ONE. THIS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY CLEAR ALREADY IN VIEW OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, THE MATTER IS FAVORED BY THE PRINCIPLE ADOPTED BY OUR COUNTRY'S UN AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE LAST AUTUMN WHICH PRESUPPOSES THAT FINLAND SUPPORTS THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRG AT ANY INTERNATIONAL EVENT WHERE THE OTHER SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTY IS PRESENT.

9. THIS DECISION WAS VIOLATED ALREADY BY THE FINNISH DELEGATION AT THE FOOD CONFERENCE HELD IN ROME IN NOVEMBER. SUCH A DEVIATION MUST NOT BE PERMITTED NOW. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS IN FACT CHANGED IN A MORE POSITIVE DIRECTION.

10. THE COUNCIL OF STATE SHOULD NOW TAKE A POSITIVE POSITION IN PRINCIPLE IN FAVOR OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRG; THIS COULD FOR ITS PART ACCELERATE THE IMPROVEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. LET US REMEMBER THAT IN A CORRESPONDING CASE, THE GERMAN QUESTION, FINLAND VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE GDR ALREADY LONG BEFORE THE ACTUAL RECOGNITION TOOK PLACE. AND IN THIS CASE
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ONE DOES NOT EVEN DEMAND THE EXCLUSION OF THE SAIGON JUNTA FROM THE CONFERENCE. THIS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY THE PRG.

1. THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVED A LONG TIME AGO ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR SOLVING THE STATUS QUESTION. SIMILARLY, THE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION HAS RECEIVED THE REQUEST OF THE PRG FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM. BUT THE REPLIES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN STUCK IN THE LABYRINTHS OF THE MINISTRY.

12. THE COUNCIL OF STATE SHOULD NOW, THROUGH A POSITIVE DECISION CONCERNING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE PRG, ACCELERATE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN

FINLAND AND THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. UNQTE

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